

MD 94-19

Lloyd H. Petty

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NOV 15 1993 Haddon, OH 44044

FCC - MAIL ROOM

Secretary of the FCC

C/o Office of Managing Director

I am writing to protest raising the
cost of VHF Marine Radio
license.

The marine VHF radio is
probably the #1 safety item
on most small boats. The
increase in the fee will cause
many boaters to resist paying
any fee while continuing to use
their radio in the "CB" manner -
that is without the use of legitimate
call signs and station I.D.

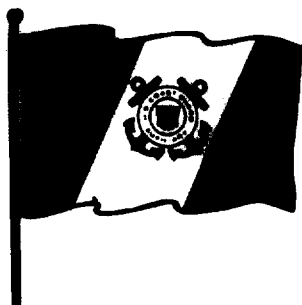
This is a poor idea at best
and is certainly going to cause
much ill-feeling among boaters.

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Orig Lloyd H. Petty
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

(AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS 1939)

THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD

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MAIL BRANCH

P.O. Box 7582
Baltimore, MD 21207
12 November 93

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of the Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Sir: As a volunteer Communications Watchstander at U.S. Coast Guard Station Curtis Bay, I am receiving a growing number of distress calls from vessels that are not, themselves, in distress but have come upon a disabled vessel that has no marine radio and is unable to signal for help.

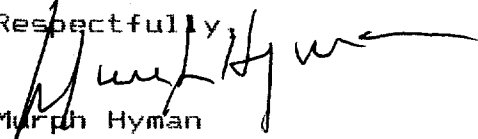
These are usually small family boats that have been purchased used for bottom dollar so that they can get out on the water. They lack many of the amenities, and when questioned for the records indicate that finances preclude them from adding equipment. Many of them have been warned that a VHF-FM radio aboard requires a license and that the lack thereof incurs a high penalty if they are inspected.

It is the opinion of those of the Auxiliary with whom I have spoken that an increase of your fees for this license will create an increasing problem on the water.

!!!!THE SMALL BOAT OWNER IS NOT A BOTTOMLESS WALLET!!!!

Please add this into your equation.

Respectfully,


Murph Hyman
Commander, Flotilla 17(SSR)

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DEDICATED TO PROMOTING RECREATIONAL BOATING SAFETY

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Secretary of the FCC
% Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 Main Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 02534

Dear Sirs :

I am writing in response to the FCC plan to propose new "user fees" on holders of VHF marine radio licences of \$7.00 per year or an additional \$35.00 to the license fee now required. Your doubling the cost of a marine VHF license will have a negative impact on boating safety, and will also result in the increase of unlicensed radio usage. If your plan does become reality then the blood of any boater who perishes in the water will be on your hands even if there was a VHF radio on board since their call for help won't be received by their fellow boater who couldn't afford your fees.

Sincerely,

David W. Fiscum

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Mr. & Mrs. David Fiscus
5 Oak Street
Ashland, MA 01721

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9131 St. Marks Place
Fairfax, VA 22031

November 10, 1993

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

To Whom It May Concern:

Your plan to propose still another new tax, euphemistically referred to as a "user fee," on holders of VHF marine radio licenses is outrageous.

What is particularly galling is that you just recently increased the "fee" from zero to \$35, and now propose to double it to \$70 for a five year license. Do you plan to go for \$140 next year, and \$280 the next? All this so we can have the "privilege" of using the public airwaves.

If you manage to push through this additional tax, I will simply remove the VHF radio from my boat, and many other boaters will do likewise. Although there may be a potential safety tradeoff, it would be worth it to have the satisfaction of not paying another unnecessary TAX to the federal government.

Fortunately, boating organizations will take you to hell and back by way of Capitol Hill before this sees the light of day, and I will be applauding every step of your journey.

Sincerely fed up,



B. W. McCahill

PRIVATE RADIO DIVISION
SPECIAL DELIVERY
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AMERICAN BOAT AND YACHT COUNCIL

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November 11, 1993

President
Richard Snyder,
Mercury Marine

Senior Vice President
E.C. Game,
Hatteras Yachts

Technical Vice President
Clark Scarboro,
Lake Stevens, WA

Treasurer
Barry Tarnet,
CIGNA P&C Companies

Executive Director
Lysle B. Gray

Technical Director
Thomas M. Hale

Financial Director
Scott L. Lippmann

Honorable William F. Caton
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Planned FCC Regulatory Fees

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This letter is to state my opposition to congressionally mandated increases to radio license fees for boaters and other mariners (ship station).

The American Boat and Yacht Council is at the forefront of developing standards for safer boating, internationally. Any action that increases radio license fees, especially doubling them, risks the strong possibility of becoming a safety disincentive. Boaters have been struggling for the past several years to comply with the myriad of federal, state and local regulations imposed on them, principally for revenue generation. Boating safety records are impressive and improving, and compliance commendable. However, this proposed fiscal action may cause thousands of boaters and other non-compulsory radio equipped vessels to reach the limit of despair and not license their ship stations. This kind of response, although not supported by ABYC, is a very real possibility and a dangerous situation from a safety perspective.

We boaters as a group are certainly doing our part to improve safety records, comply with regulations and contribute through numerous taxes and fees. It is important for the FCC to do its part and waive the increased fee structure to "promote the public interest."

Sincerely,

C.T. Moyer, III
Executive Director (Designate)

/jab

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1249 Palmer Circle
Bridgeport N. Y. 13030

13 November 1993

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington D. C. 20554

I wish to express my feelings on the proposed new fees for VHF marine radio licenses for recreational boaters.

The primary purpose of a VHF marine radio on a boat is safety. In the case of an emergency on a river or lake, the marine radio is the only link for help for emergency services. Lives are saved as well as injuries and property loss prevented because of VHF marine radio.

The VHF marine radio is the only safety device on a boat where a fee is charged. There are no fees for life jackets, flares, flame arresters and numerous other safety devices required or otherwise.

The additional cost of a license above the \$35 now charged is adding an extra burden to the boater along with rising docking fees, fuel costs, and etc. I am sure, because I am one, that many boaters will simply say "I've had enough" and will not pay the fee and will remove the radio from the boat thus not having the use of this vital piece of safety equipment. The other factor that will happen is more boaters will simply take a chance and continue to use their radios without having a license.

I urge you not to increase the VHF license fees beyond the present \$35.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Pearson
John H. Pearson

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Secretary of the FCC
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed increase in fees for a Ship's Station License. I believe this **USER'S FEE** to be in poor judgement. You have the ability to increase revenue without this fee. Let me explain.

I am a license holder and have been since purchasing my first VHF radio. I know, first hand, that many owner/operators are not! In today's computer era, you should be able to cross-reference boat registration with ship's station licenses. Those not licensed should be dealt with. Not all boats are equipped with a radio but most are.

This seems to be the fair way to generate increased revenue. Why should those who operate legally pay for those in violation of the law? The fines imposed on the violators should pay for the policing of the law, and the increased applications will increase the FCC's coffers.

Regards,



Michael D. Brown

PRIVATE RADIO
SPECIAL AGENT
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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street
NW, Washington, DC 20554

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Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director

FCC MAIL ROOM

re: FCC additional "user fees"

Nov. 10, 1993

Dear Secretary,

I would like to review an article that was brought to my attention through an article in the Boat / U.S. November issue. The article states that the FCC is planning to impose a new "user fee" for the Marine VHF radio license holder. I have been a boater for the last 8 years and have adhered to all the requirements for having a boat on US waters. In addition to further my and others safety and welfare, I belong to and have advanced in the United States Power Squadron. My current position is AP. In this I have learned to be involved to better the boating safety and laws that applied to boating on the lakes and Great lakes. I have witnessed the Federal "user fee" repeal and do not understand why it seems that the Boating community is being singled out to apply these additional costs, as we are already paying for. The Motor homes and Campers go unattended and they are a luxury also. We as Power Squadron members and Boat / U.S. members want to support boat regulations and laws, but feel and see that we seem to be singled out for all these additional costs that are taxes in disguise.

Please take the time to see this from our point of view and I think as concerned individuals that this is not fair and will make people operate the Marine VHF radios without licenses. We as Power Squadron members and Boat / U.S. members have always tried to and promote following all regulations. This is an issue that makes it hard for us when back to back fees are added.

Thank you for your time to review this and I hope we can see that this is not a good issue or time for this to occur.

Sincerely,
Martin C. Cave A.P.

Martin C. Cave A.P.

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FCC - MAIL ROOM

5210 Edgewater Drive
Sheffield Lake, Oh 44054
November 10, 1993

Secretary of the FCC
C/O Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary:

We do not own a marine radio to chit chat. Our radio is used mainly for emergency purposes. The proposed increase to holders of VHF Marine Radio Licenses is unjustifiable and will be a cost burden to some boaters.

We live on Lake Erie where we have an average of 16 to 20 weeks of boating. In the year of 1992, only two good weeks of boating. The increase in boat operating costs are forcing some owners to sell their boats, and is discouraging would-be boat buyers, especially in this area.

In the past 30 years of boating, the government has taken more of our tax dollars, and has given us less in return. I say "NO" to the proposed increase.

Yours truly,

Rose M. Zaborski

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F.C.C.

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MAIL BRANCH

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Gentlemen:

I just learned from "Boat US Reports" that you are considering doubling the fee for a VHF Marine radio license. I strongly urge you to reconsider. I believe this move will be counter productive to marine safety. Many persons will not renew their present licenses and not have the benefit of the extra security while boating. Even worse many persons will use and continue to use their VHF marine radio without a license. This is exactly what happened to the Citizens Band radio license. Then a precedent was set and the only way the FCC could solve the problem was to eliminate the C.B. license. Do you want this confusion to happen to the marine VHF band. It will affect commercial channels as well as the ones now assigned.

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I recommend that you go in the other direction. Keep the \$35.00 present fee, if you must, but make the licenses valid for a 10 year period. This will

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reduce your paper work by 50% in
less than 30 days and make ~~users~~ users happy.
Think about it!
Don't become money hungry!
Give the poor boater a break!

Sincerely -

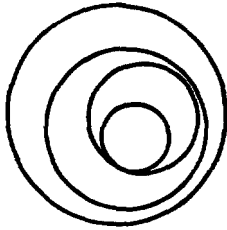
R. F. AVRUTIN

R. F. AVRUTIN
158 INLETS BLVD
NOROMIS, FLA, 34275

cc Boat U.S.

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architect



JOHN GAYDOSH

15 BURNHAM HILL, WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT 06880 - 227-6955
JOHN GAYDOSH, A.I.A.

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Nov. 11, 1993

Secretary of FCC
FCC 1919 M St. NW
Washington, D.C.

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MAIL BRANCH

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FCC - MAIL ROOM

Dear Sir,

Please do not increase my VHF
license. In this economy, I can't
understand why you plan on doing it.

If you increase the fee (double) I'll
take my chances going without it.

Yours very truly
John Gaydosh

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